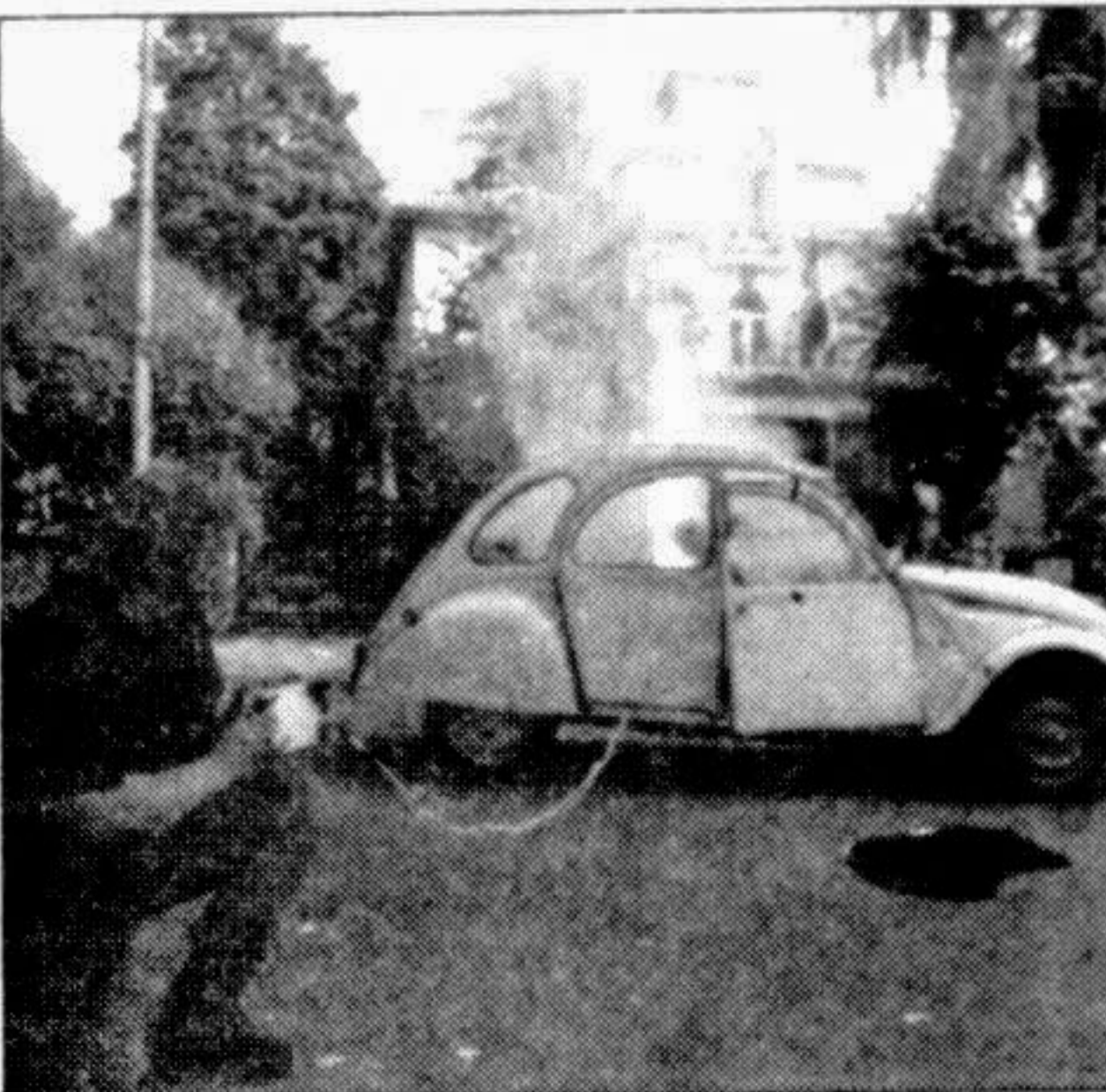


BRIEFLY



A member of the Norwegian Environmental Protection Group Miljøvernforbundet triggers an explosion to blow up a French Citroen 2CV car outside the French Embassy in Oslo, Norway Monday, as a protest against France's planned resumption of nuclear tests. The action which had been approved by Oslo police was carried out in a controlled environment with explosives experts on hand, leaving only the car damaged.

— AFP/UNB photo

94 children die a day in Angola:

Nearly 100 children under the age of five die in Angola daily as a result of conflict and diseases, the highest estimated infant mortality rate in the world, according to a UN report. AFP says from Luanda.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), in a recently released report assessing the state of children in this Southern African country, said that with 94 children dying daily, "it is estimated that Angola yesterday has the highest mortality rates in the world."

Coup in Sao Tome ends peacefully:

A military coup in Sao Tome and Principe ended peacefully on Monday with parliament granting an amnesty to soldiers who had seized the African twin-island state, officials said. Reuter reports from Sao Tome.

President Miguel Trovoado, who had been under house arrest, and Prime Minister Carlos Graca were restored to office and the country's constitution was back in effect, the officials said.

19 killed in SA road mishap:

Nineteen people were killed and 55 injured in a collision between a bus, a lorry and a delivery vehicle in South Africa's eastern Transvaal province Tuesday, police said. Reuter reports from Johannesburg.

"We believe two of the vehicles collided and then the third hit (them)," a police spokesman said, adding the vehicles crashed on the Hendrina-Carolina road about 10 km (six miles) from Hendrina.

Ex-UP governor Arif dies:

The former union minister and ex-governor of Uttar Pradesh, Mohammad Usman Arif, died at Bikaner Monday night after a prolonged illness, PTI reports from Jaipur.

Arif, 72, was admitted to the PBM Hospital in Bikaner on Monday following chronic renal failure and was put on dialysis. Born at Bikaner on April 5, 1923, he served as union deputy minister from January 1982 to February 1983. Arif was the governor of Uttar Pradesh from 1985 to 1990.

Arrest warrant for Garcia:

An international arrest warrant has been issued for the capture of former Peruvian President Alan Garcia, who went into exile in Colombia in 1992, a spokesman for Interpol in Lima said Monday. AFP reports from Lima.

The arrest order carries a top priority requesting the former president's immediate arrest, the spokesman said. Garcia is accused of receiving a one-million-dollar bribe for giving an Italian consortium a contract to build an electric train system in Lima.

Benazir to visit Kazakhstan:

Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto will pay official visits to Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan from August 23 to 27, a government statement said on Monday. Reuter reports from Islamabad.

It said five agreements were likely to be signed during her August 23-25 visit to Kazakhstan, including one on reciprocal promotion and protection of investment and a convention on avoidance of double taxation.

25 die in Mexico road mishap:

A bus hurtled off a road into a ravine in the eastern state of Veracruz, killing 25 people and injuring 30, police said. AFP reports from Mexico City.

Some passengers landed in a river and were drowned. Judicial police commander in Veracruz Juan Mata told the state-run news agency Notimex.

Clinton slams Jerusalem blast:

President Bill Clinton Monday condemned a suicide bombing in Jerusalem that killed four people and vowed that these enemies of peace will not succeed. Reuter reports from Wyoming.

The attack by a suicide bomber against a public bus has taken the lives of several innocent civilians, and has wounded many, including two Americans, a White House statement said.

Guatemala moves to fight dengue:

The government of Guatemala declared its fight against dengue fever a "national emergency" Monday announcing measures designed to prevent and eradicate the disease spread by mosquitoes, AFP reports from Guatemala City.

The government decree, to be published Tuesday in the official daily newspaper, will instruct all public and private institutions to cooperate with the measures to be taken.

Israel, PLO vow to continue peace talks

JERUSALEM, Aug 22: Israel and the PLO have vowed to continue their peace talks despite Monday's bloody suicide bomb attack in Jerusalem by the Islamic Hamas Movement that killed four people and wounded 100, reports Reuter.

Security sources said the victims of the attack were two Israelis, an American woman tourist and an unidentified man and woman — either of whom could have been the bomber.

Hamas's military wing said in a statement it was behind the bombing and pledged to carry out more attacks.

US feared Soviet attacks on N-test sites at outset of Cold War

WASHINGTON, Aug 22: US officials feared the Soviet Union would try to kidnap American atom bomb scientists or attack the US nuclear testing grounds in the Pacific at the outset of the Cold War, newly declassified military records show, reports AP.

To prepare to respond, the Pentagon put together a secret plan, code-named Operation Lazybones, in early 1951 as the Truman administration was about to begin the first full-scale tests of the hydrogen bomb in the Pacific.

The plan spelled out how the Army, Navy and Air Force would attempt to hold off Soviet attackers long enough to evacuate the nuclear test materials from tiny Eniwetok

**Rolf Ekeus meets Hussein Kamel
Iraq to cooperate fully with UNSCOM experts**

BAGHDAD, Aug 22: Iraqi leaders agreed Monday to cooperate fully with UN experts and fill in remaining gaps in information about Baghdad's arms programmes, the officials agency INA said, reports AFP.

The ruling Revolutionary Command Council and the leadership of the Baath party reached the decision at a meeting chaired by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, INA said.

Iraq has "decided to continue its cooperation with the UN Special Commission on Disarming Iraq (UNSCOM) in a completely open spirit in order to fill in all the gaps in the files" on the country's disarmament, a spokesman told INA after the meeting.

The meeting also discussed the "results of talks" with UN disarmament chief Rolf Ekeus who ended a four-day mission in Baghdad on Sunday saying Iraq had handed over a "very large

amount of valuable information" on its germ warfare programme.

Baghdad hoped its cooperation would allow UNSCOM and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to prepare swiftly reports for the UN Security Council and lead to a lifting of the oil and trade embargo imposed when Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990, INA added.

UN experts are due to return to Baghdad today for further talks with Iraqi leaders, Ekeus said Sunday in Manama.

Another report from Amman adds: UN disarmament chief Rolf Ekeus met today Iraqi defector General Hussein Kamel Hassan who masterminded Baghdad's secret weapons programmes, Jordanian officials said.

Ekeus arrived in Amman Monday after a four-day mission in Baghdad. He said Iraq handed over new information on its germ warfare pro-

gramme but more facts were needed on chemical weapons.

Hussein Kamel, former Iraqi industry minister and a son-in-law of president Saddam Hussein, defected to Jordan in August 8. He later said he would divulge Baghdad's weapons secrets only if he felt it was in the country's interests.

Ekeus, head of the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) on disarming Iraq, asked to meet Hassan at a meeting with acting Foreign Minister Abdel Rauf Rawabdeh earlier Monday.

"We want to see the files in his possession and to hear the data he has for us," a source quoted Ekeus as telling Rawabdeh.

Ekeus reportedly said: "What we want is to compare documents in his possession with those we obtained from the Iraqi authorities".

Hassan, Iraq's former industry minister, is expected

to fill in details on Iraq's advanced weapons programme, which UNSCOM is in charge of destroying.

UN experts are also due to return to Baghdad on Tuesday for further talks with Iraqi leaders to plug the remaining gaps in information.

Meanwhile, Iraq said today it is a trouble-hardened nation that "will weather the storm" of US pressure following the defection of a Iraqi senior official.

Washington is trying to exploit what it thinks is "a crack in Iraq's internal front" created by former industry minister Hussein Kamel Hassan's defection to Jordan on August 8, the official Baghdad Observer newspaper said.

The United States has begun a diplomatic drive to break Iraq's economic ties with Jordan, its lifeline to the world, and sent troops to the Middle East to protect Jordan and Kuwait.

Quest for victims of Indian train mishap ends

NEW DELHI, Aug 22: Indian authorities today ended the search for more victims of Sunday's express train collision near the Taj Mahal town of Agra in which at least 350 people were killed, reports AFP.

It was India's worst rail disaster in 14 years. A spokesman for India's state-run railways said the search ended Monday night after all the dead and injured were removed from the twisted debris.

"We are quite sure that we have recovered all the bodies from the debris," said C P Arora in New Delhi, some 240 kilometres (144 miles) from the industrial town of Ferozabad where the two express trains collided and flew off their tracks.

Fire incident: 17 women held in Seoul

SEOUL, Aug 22: Police on Tuesday arrested 17 people in connection with a fire at a women's reform school that left 37 dead and 16 injured during a breakout attempt, reports AP.

Organisers of the escape plan piled up blankets in several rooms of their two-story dormitory and set them on fire at 2 am Monday to create confusion.

But no one escaped. Instead, with the doors locked and bars on the windows, the terrified victims — all but three in their teens — either burned to death or suffocated. One was only 13.

Sixteen of those arrested were residents of the Kyonggi Women's Technical School who were charged with arson, homicide and assault.

Arab League blasts Israel's policy on Al-Aqsa

CAIRO, Aug 22: The Arab League condemned on Monday Israel's "aggressive policy" against the Al-Aqsa Mosque, Islam's third holiest site, in annexed East Jerusalem, reports AFP.

"Israel continues its aggressive policy against the Al-Aqsa Mosque and its attempts to destroy it through the work of terrorists and Israeli extremists," the league said in a communique carried by the Egyptian News Service MENA.

The league accused the Jewish state of conducting excavations at the mosque "in order to change the geographic features not only of the mosque but of all Jerusalem."



Technicians set up a MIG-21 fighter system during the International Aerocosmic Salon in Zhukovski, some 40 km out of Moscow Monday, where 145 planes and helicopters from 23 countries were exhibited to the public.

— AFP/UNB photo

**Over 60 Chechen rebels killed
Russian forces retake police station in Argun**

ARGUN, Russia, Aug 22: Russian special forces re-occupied buildings seized by Chechen rebels in the town of Argun early today, and Interfax news agency said between 60 and 80 rebels had died in the incident, reports AFP.

One Russian soldier died and 12 were wounded, the Russian command was quoted as saying.

The special forces said they were combing the streets of Argun in search of any activists who might have got away from the siege, which centred on the town's police headquarters and nearby buildings.

Between 200 and 400 Chechen independence fighters led by Alawdi Khamzatov, a local warlord, had occupied the police HQ and other buildings on Sunday night, calling for Russian forces in Chechnya to withdraw.

After an unsuccessful attempt to negotiate with the militants, Russian forces launched an artillery attack on them Monday afternoon and helicopters fired several rockets, apparently aimed at the occupied police HQ.

The Russian commanders today said the police HQ had not been damaged in the rocket attack because the he-

licopters had missed their targets.

The whole area around the police headquarters was sealed off today, and Russian soldiers refused to talk to the press.

Before launching their attack on the occupied buildings, Russian forces urged civilians to evacuate the area but witnesses said many civilians stayed hidden in cellars.

AP adds, anxious Chechens waited Tuesday at roads leading into Argun for news of their friends and family still trapped in the town following an assault by Russian troops against rebel fighters.



South African President Nelson Mandela (L) addresses the media during a photocall with Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad in Pretoria Monday. Mahathir is on six-day visit to South Africa.

— AFP/UNB photo

Silajdzic urges Muslim states to supply arms

ABU DHABI, Aug 22: Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic on Monday called here for Muslim countries to supply arms to his country, reports AFP.

He told a press conference at the end of a one-day visit that "the important thing is to take a resolution in lifting the embargo and supplying arms to the Muslim republic in Bosnia since the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) considers the embargo illegal."

He said the issue would be raised at the next meeting of OIC defence and foreign affairs ministers to be held in Malaysia when the "military needs of Bosnia" would be discussed.

In July, the OIC contact group of Bosnia-Herzegovina declared the international arms embargo imposed on the former Yugoslavia invalid, saying its 51 members were free to supply arms to the republic.

Silajdzic side stepped a question on whether any Gulf states were supplying arms to Bosnia saying that "these countries are providing aid, mainly food, medical equip-

ment and oil." Meanwhile, at least 10 civilians were killed in shelling of the northwest Bosnian town of Cazin on Monday, the official Bosnia-Herzegovina television reported.

Two little girls were killed in shelling Sunday and at least two more children were killed in Bosnian Serb shelling Monday in Cazin, in the middle of the northwest Bihac pocket held by the Bosnian government.

No further information about the attack was immediately available.

Reuter adds from Sarajevo: US officials pledged to regain diplomatic momentum for a peace initiative in former Yugoslavia as tensions remained high around the Adriatic port of Dubrovnik between rival Croat and Serb armies.

"We believe this is clearly the best opportunity we have had to pursue a peaceful solution to this conflict, and we're determined not to let it slip from our grasp," David Johnson, spokesman for the US State Department, told reporters in Washington.

Off the Record

Misuse of govt calling card in an erotic way

CHARLOTTETOWN, Prince Edward Island: A Prince Edward Island legislator who used his government calling card for phone sex has resigned his seat, reports AP.

Randy Cooke submitted his resignation Monday, saying the past few months have been difficult for him and his family.

Cooke, 34, a married father of two, resigned from the liberal caucus in the spring after publicly admitted he was addicted to telephone sex lines and had made numerous calls on his government calling card.

Last week, he was given a suspended sentence and place on two years probation after pleading guilty of fraud. He has repaid more than 5,000 dollars for 821 calls made between November 1993 and March 1995.

Cooke was elected to the legislature in the 1993 provincial election. He previously had handled the finances of a seafood company.

Hillary's unusual gift

JACKSON, Wyoming: Hillary Rodham Clinton insisted President Clinton to play golf one more time Monday so she could spring a final birthday surprise, reports AP.

And when the US president walked onto the first tee against the signature silhouette of the Grand Teton peaks, he found that golf champion Johnny Miller had flown in to be his partner on the greens.

"It was a surprise birthday present," said Clinton, who turned 49 on Saturday.

Miller, the birthday present, is 48 and won the US Open in 1973, a highlight of a professional golf career that stretched from 1969 to 1988. He won the British Open in 1978 and is now a colour analyst and commentator for NBC television's network golf shows.

"I didn't know anything about it," Clinton said. "All I know is that for the first time in our married life, Hillary told me that I had to play golf this morning."



NZ sues France in ICJ against N-test

THE HAGUE, Aug 22: New Zealand has filed its case against France at the International Court of Justice over the planned resumption of French nuclear tests in the South Pacific, officials said Monday.

Hilary Ann Willberg, New Zealand Ambassador to the Netherlands, told AFP the law suit was aimed at reopening a case filed by her country in December 1974 to prevent what were then atmospheric nuclear tests in the region.

The case was shelved after France agreed to hold future tests underground, but no ruling was given on the fundamentals of the case.

But French Foreign Ministry spokesman Yves Doutriaux reacted by saying

the court was not competent to rule on the New Zealand law suit.

France had argued it was not competent in the first law suit started in 1974 because it concerned French national interests. "The situation is still the same," he insisted in Paris.

Doutriaux said the previous court action had been over atmospheric tests but France was this time carrying out underground tests.

Meanwhile AP adds: The French government told Australia and New Zealand on Tuesday it would not look kindly on them reacting more harshly to France's upcoming nuclear tests than to China's August 17 test explosion.

Taiwan won't bow to pressure

TAIPEI, Aug 22: President Lee Teng-Hui, speaking at a key ruling party congress, said today that Taiwan would not bow to pressure and would continue trying to break out of the diplomatic isolation imposed on it by rival China, reports Reuter.

"We will not accept any repression," Lee said. "We will gradually promote pragmatic diplomacy to find international room for the Republic of China (Taiwan) before reunification and to gain international respect."

Taiwan's archrival China has repeatedly criticised Lee's attempts to gain international recognition for Taiwan's government.